



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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2010 Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations Highlights

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There were 29,400 farms in Montana during 2010, down 400 from the previous year. Farms are sub-grouped by economic sales. The smallest economic sales category, \$1,000 to \$9,999, contains the largest number of farms - 13,100, which is down 400 farms from 2009. The next economic sales category, \$10,000 to \$99,999, had 9,300 farms, unchanged from 2009. For the economic sales category of \$100,000 to \$249,999, there were 3,400 farms, down 100 farms from last year. The economic sales category of \$250,000 to \$499,999 shows 2,200 farms in 2010 compared with 2,300 in 2009. The number of farms in the highest economic sales class of \$500,000 or more was 1,400 farms, up 200 farms from 2009.

Land in farms is estimated at 60.8 million acres, unchanged from 2009. Montana's average farm size is 2,068 acres, compared with 2,040 in 2009. Land in farms was also broken down by economic sales class. The breakdowns by sales category are as follows: \$1,000 to \$9,999 - 2.3 million acres, \$10,000 to \$99,999 - 11.8 million acres, \$100,000 to \$249,999 - 14.8 million acres, \$250,000 to \$499,999 - 13.5 million acres, and \$500,000 or more - 18.4 million acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 2010 is estimated at 2.2 million, virtually unchanged from 2009. Total land in farms, at 920.0 million acres, increased 100 thousand acres from 2009. The average farm size is 418 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are broken down into five economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these "sales classes" by summing their sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, and \$500,000.

Farm numbers increased slightly in the \$1,000-\$9,999 and \$500,000 and over sales classes. Higher commodity prices and larger value of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Farm numbers increased 0.1 percent, to 1.23 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$500,000 and over sales class increased by 1.6 percent, to 126,720 farms.

Land in farms increased in the largest sales class while decreasing in all other sales classes. Land operated by farms in the \$500,000 & over in sales class increased 3.0 percent, to 298.9 million acres. Land operated by farms with \$1,000-\$9,999 in sales decreased by 0.6 percent, to 105.0 million acres.

The average farm size was unchanged in 2010. However, average farm sizes declined in some of the sales classes partially due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

This report also contains estimates of farm numbers and land in farms for Puerto Rico. The number of farms with sales of \$1,000 or more in Puerto Rico was 10,400 in 2010, unchanged from 2009. Land in farms, at 450,000 acres, is unchanged from the previous year. The average farm size in Puerto Rico in 2010 was estimated at 43 acres.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 935,000 for 2010, down 1 percent from 2009. Beef cow operations in 2010, at 742,000, were also down 1 percent from last year. The number of milk cow operations for 2010 totaled 62,500, down 4 percent from 2009.

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The three operation classes: cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and 1-49 size group for beef cows.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 69,100 for 2010, down 3 percent from 2009. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 86 percent of the inventory.

The number of operations with sheep totaled 81,000 for 2010, down 1 percent from 2009. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 93.8 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 5.1 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.1 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 35.8 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 20.1 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 44.1 percent of the inventory.

The number of operations with goats totaled 152,000 for 2010, unchanged from a year earlier. Angora goat operations totaled 6,000, up 9 percent from 2009. Milk goat operations totaled 31,000, up 3 percent from 2009. Meat goat operations totaled 128,000, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat goat operations since places which own more than one goat type count as only one operation.

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